

Village of Athens Board Meeting

December 11, 2024

Present: Mayor Serrago, Trustee Phoenix, Trustee Lipsman, Trustee Lasher, Trustee Dillberg and Attorney Rappelyea.

The night began with the swearing in of Sgt. William Mirando

Department Heads:

Northdome-Joe Myers- Joe said that the last month has been great as far as compliance. He said he had an issue with the grit pump at the sewer plant as it needs servicing. He said that grit is destructive to the pumps. He said he is working on a 2nd quote and when he gets that he will get it to the board. Joe said he expects both quotes to be about the same.

Mayor Serrago said to do a resolution up to a certain amount so this can be resolved.

A **MOTION** was made to allow up to \$5500.00 pending the collection of 2 additional quotes for a grit pump and the Mayor may approve based on what comes in.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustees Lasher

All were in favor.

Joe said the daily flows were a little high, but we will benefit from the next round of leak detection. Joe said he will get a hold of the leak detection company. He said we had 2' of rain the last time it rained.

Lamont Engineering-Jason Preisner- Jason said there has been an ongoing discussion about harvesting and weed removal. He said he spoke with DEC and they feel there are not a lot of invasive species and the native species are good.

Trustee Phoenix said she thought we were deemed a wetland.

Mayor Serrago said it turns out that harvesting is not a good idea.

Jason said he needs to know how far out the water intake is.

Wayne (DPW and Fire Chief) said that it is 30-40 ft off the shore, he said that divers could look.

Trustee Lipsman asked if they could take pictures.

Jason said that an application for Copper Sulfate should be done to knock down the weeds. He said it will be a timing thing and not in the middle of summer. He said the Water Treatment plant is going to change the carbon filters which will help with the taste and odor, they have not been changed in a while.

Mayor Serrago said to do Early Spring.

Jason said have the divers go down to see.

Trustee Lipsman said that Sara Whalen from DEC sent a link to the common causes of odor in water. She also sent labs that will test.

Jason said that he and Joe will put a plan together to test the water.

Jason said investigating the water more is good.

Joe said that Copper Sulfate is popular, but it should be started as soon as the ice melts.

Trustee Lipsman asked if carbon quotes could be done.

Joe said he reached out for a price already. He said Mayor Serrago will need an RFP.

Jason said the only problem will be applying for the application is that DEC may require more for the process. He said the date to close the overall project will probably be in March.

Mayor Serrago said that the lead service line letters were sent out. She said the Village cannot take on the testing of the water.

Jason said Athens is not the only community that is having a problem about the letters. The state sent a generic letter and never told anyone how to change it. Jason said he will send two names of labs for testing water. Jason explained how lead may or may not show up in water testing. He said we have done the inventory now keep chipping away at the unknowns as we will use this to get money and justify what needs to be done. He said there will be more information coming on this down the line. He knows of towns that have received money as they worked on this for a long time. He said it will need to be completed 10 years from 2027.

Joe said just keep amending and updating.

Mayor Serrago said the gym is done and should be ready for the Victorian Stroll.

DPW-Chris Sprague- Chris said that Brick Row Alley has been completed. He said there are no users, and no one has been charged yet. He said there are 3 hookups. Chris said they are finishing small projects this winter. He spoke about the brush pile and that he was getting quotes. He said 3 months ago he got an email from a state agency for a small grant for safety equipment. He said he received \$3000.00. He said he will get hard hats, vests and things like that. He said they helped Cocksackie with a break. He also said that Cocksackie borrowed the leaf machine as theirs blew up. Chris also had quotes on 6" valves. He had a quote from EJ Prescott for \$6457.59 and Glen Davis for \$7500-\$7600.00, but it was a year old, so he received a new quote for \$6350.00. He would like to use the ARPA money to purchase 2. He asked that the remainder of the money be put aside and used to purchase a listening device that would cost about \$1200.00.

A RESOLUTION was made to purchase the 6" insertion valves with the left-over ARPA money (\$14,452.030) and the remainder of the money be used to purchase a leak detector and if there is an overage it will come out of the DPW budget.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Dillberg

All were in favor.

Chris said last year he spoke about replacing hydrants, but he would like to finish the valves this year, so he would like the money waived for the hydrants since it is a sole line item.

Mayor Serrago said she had spoke with Chris and she said the valves are important and the hydrants can be put off.

A **MOTION** was made to use the hydrant replacement money to buy the valves.

Offered by: Trustee Dillberg

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix

All were in favor.

APD- Ed Tercasio-

Mayor Serrago said she asked that the police reports be changed as there is not enough information. She said she wants to know what incidents have occurred and whether the case is closed.

Ed Tercasio said if we assist, we do not close the case.

Mayor Serrago asked if after the New Year they would have significant info on the speed sign.

Ed said he has been on with the technicians, and we may have to reset and start over. Ed mentioned the SRO report and said he worked up to the school one day and did not realize all they do there.

Code Enforcement-Ed Tercasio- He said there were no violations, and they did 6 permits. He said everything is good.

Trustee Lasher said she had a complaint about an ATV and I told them to fill out a complaint.

Ed said it is legal in the street.

Trustee Lasher said that in the code it says it is not allowed.

Trustee Dillberg said the person has farm plates.

Trustee Lasher told Ed to look into the code about ATV's.

AVFD-Wayne Butterworth- Wayne said the firehouse was awarded a grant for 5 set of gear through the Community Benefits Foundation. He said we were denied the other grants. He said we had 3 new members transfer into the department. He said they are getting a requote for the outer doors. We were supposed to have by tonight, but do not yet. He said he did get some keys from Hatchet. He said buildings and grounds should cover it.

Mayor Serrago asked Wayne if they could get some lights on the building like the DPW has. Maybe some downlighting like in a modern way.

Wayne said we just upgraded 5 years ago.

Mayor Serrago said it would be new fixtures like barn style, at least in the front to cut down on ambient lighting.

Wayne said the parking lot is deteriorating. He said we have done patching, but in needs to be replaced.

Mayor Serrago said to get quotes after the New Year.

Trustee Dillberg asked if roads are paved can we cut down on costs?

Wayne also mentioned the bylaws have been changed. He said instead of Department we are now Company. He said they have not been voted on yet.

APPLICATIONS:

1. Membership- Athens Volunteer fire Department
 1. Shawn Burdick
 2. Earl Martin
 3. Aurora Palmateer- she is a transfer from the Explorer Program

A **MOTION** was made to accept the new members.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Dillberg

All were in favor

RESOLUTIONS:

1. Proposed Resolution Approving Minutes from the Village Board Meeting held on November 13th, 2024

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman
Seconded by: Trustee Dillberg
Record of vote: all were in favor
2. Proposed Resolution Approving Payment of Vouchers as Presented on Abstracts

Offered by: Trustee Lasher
Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix
Record of vote: all were in favor

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. Athens Community Foundation- Athens Cultural Center \$16,040.00 for repairs received.
2. Athens Community Foundation- Athens Riverfront Park \$2467.00 for handicapped tables received
3. Athens Community Foundation- Athens Community Building \$8330.00 for defibrillators received.
4. NYS Homes and Community Renewal re: Pro Housing Community
5. NYS Department of Environmental Conservation: SPDES Renewal Notice

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Water/Sewer Application: Federated Church of Athens, needs signature
The board said this will need to be revisited again.
Wayne from the DPW said a new sewer was ran over to Warren Street.
Trustee Dillberg said that drops way off over there.
2. Pat Gillespie-CAC Nomination

A **MOTION** was made to appoint Pat Gillespie to take Cate Collinson's term which expires in April.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of Vote: all were in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Retirement of Mary Jo Wynne, Clerk-Treasurer effective January 2, 2025-resolution needed to accept retirement date.
2. Appointment of Dawn Palmateer to the position of Clerk/Treasurer effective January 2, 2025- resolution needed to appoint.

Mayor Serrago explained the transition that will take place. Mary Jo will retire but stay on for 6 month to help search for a deputy clerk while Dawn becomes the Clerk/Treasurer. She said we had a meeting and this will be a positive, good transition. She said we will get a bookkeeper monthly to reconcile and do reporting.

A **MOTION** was made to accept Mary Jos retirement as of January 2, 2025

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix.

Record of Vote: All were in favor.

A **MOTION** was made to appoint Dawn to the position of Clerk/ Treasurer effective January 2, 2025

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Lipsman

Record of vote: all were in favor.

3. Annual Insurance Marshall and Sterling due by the end of month. Needs Signature
Insurance has been signed.

4. Building Agreement with the Town

Mayor Serrago said she met with the Town on 12/2/2024. She said they are moving forward to work with a 3rd party attorney for the intermunicipal agreement. She said the town and village will own 50/50. Right now, she said they are working on an agreement and then bonding. She said the town does not want the gym.

A **RESOLUTION** was made to move forward with the plan for the Village and the Town.

Offered by: Trustee Lipsman

Seconded by: Trustee Lasher

Record of vote; All were in favor

Mayor Serrago brought up a resolution that needed to be done for NYCOM. This is to support increased State aid for local governments.

A **MOTION** was made to support a resolution for continued increase of State aid for local governments.

Offered by: Trustee Lasher

Seconded by: Trustee Phoenix

Record of vote: all were in favor

Trustee Phoenix – she said the only thing she had to mention was there was a lot of concern over the letters that went for water/sewer.

Trustee Lipsman-had noting for tonight.

Trustee Dillberg-had nothing for tonight.

Clerk- Said that a resident had called about the pond on Union Street being flooded for skating this year. She also asked if the Lawn Contract would be going out for bid this year as someone had asked.

Mayor Serrago said yes.

Mayor Serrago- Mentioned the boardwalk again and the dip in it being really bad.

The fire department physicals were also discussed.

Mayor Serrago asked that Wayne find out some costs on these.

Trustee Dillberg said there is a place by the airport that does them.

Wayne said he would call around.

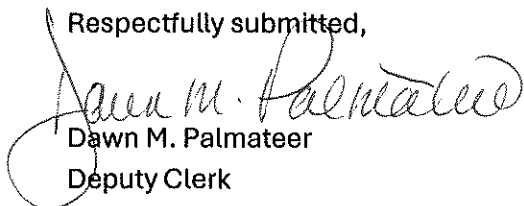
Mayor Serrago reminded everyone that Senator Schumer will be here Monday at 11:30am with an announcement about the lighthouse. She also said the meeting with the Cultural Center went well and she will bring back information at the next board meeting.

Nancy Poylo asked about the status of her revolving loan.

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Trustee Lipsman, seconded by Trustee Lasher and all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Dawn M. Palmateer". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dawn M. Palmateer

Deputy Clerk